

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/620,550
Reply to Office Action dated September 28, 2007

Remarks:

Applicant has read and considered the Office Action dated September 28, 2007 and the references cited therein. Claims 3, 4, 11, 15 and 17 have been amended. Claims 10 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3-9, 11-12, 14-17, 20-23 and 26 are currently pending. Reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

In the Office Action, claims 3, 4, 15 and 17 were objected to for informalities. Applicant has made the suggested changes to claims 3, 4 and 15. The language objected to in claim 17 has been deleted from the claim. Applicant asserts that the objections have been overcome and requests that the objections be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 4, 6-10, 17, 20-23 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Baker, Sr. Claim 17 has been amended and incorporates features of claim 13 and intermediate claim 10. Claim 13 had been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant therefore asserts that claim 17 is now in condition for allowance. Applicant asserts that claim 17 and claims 3, 4, 6-10, 20-23 and 26 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance for at least the reasons claim 13 was indicated as having allowable subject matter. Applicant asserts that the rejection is overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

Claims 5-12, 14-17, 21, 23 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bradley. Claim 17 has been amended and incorporates the features of claim 13 and intermediate claim 10. Applicant asserts that as claim 13 had been indicated as having allowable subject matter, claim 17 is now allowable for at least the reasons that claim 13 was indicated as having allowable subject matter. Applicant asserts that claim 17 and claims 5-12, 14-16, 21, 23 and 26 depending therefrom, patentably distinguish over the prior art and are in

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condition for allowance. Applicant asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bradley has been overcome and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker, Sr. Applicant asserts that claim 17 has been amended and incorporates the features of claim 13 and intermediate claim 10. Claim 13 had been indicated as having allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form and Applicant asserts that claim 17 is now in condition for allowance. Applicant asserts that claim 5, depending from claim 17, also patentably distinguishes over the prior art and is in condition for allowance. Applicant asserts that claim 5 overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker, Sr. and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 13 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 13 has been amended and incorporates the features of claim 13 and intermediate claim 10. Applicant asserts that claim 17 is therefore in condition for allowance. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

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Applicant asserts that the claims are now in condition for allowance. A speedy and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is hereby solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicant's representative at (612) 336-4728.



Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

Dated: _____

3/27/08

By: _____

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GAS/km